

1 CLAIMS

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3 What is claimed is:

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- 5 1. A method for answering an incoming call made to a mobile phone, comprising:
- 6 optionally manually activating, by the receiving party, a special courtesy mode
- 7 feature on the phone;
- 8 playing a courtesy message to the calling party, indicating in effect that the
- 9 receiving party will take their call shortly and/or that they should wait while the receiving
- 10 party relocates in order to be able to better receive their call;
- 11 having the receiving party complete their current activity and/or relocating the
- 12 receiving party to a location where they are better able to receive the call and have a
- 13 phone conversation with less disturbance to others around them;
- 14 activating the phone, by the receiving party, to initiate the conversation.
- 15
- 16 2. The method of Claim 1 further including the step of:
- 17 observing the Caller ID display, by the receiving party, to determine whether or
- 18 not to accept the call.
- 19
- 20 3. The method of Claim 1 further including the step of:
- 21 placing the calling party on hold while the receiving party completes their current
- 22 activity and/or relocates, the calling party remaining on hold until the receiving party
- 23 activates said mobile phone to initiate the conversation or until said courtesy mode is
- 24 otherwise terminated.
- 25
- 26 4. The method of Claim 3 further including the step of:
- 27 removing the calling party from hold and sending them to voicemail, executed by
- 28 the receiving party at the receiving party's discretion.
- 29
- 30 5. The method of Claim 3 further including the step of:

1 removing the calling party from hold and sending them to voicemail, executed
2 automatically after a pre-determined time-out period has elapsed since said
3 courtesy mode was initiated, without the receiving party having activated the
4 phone to initiate a conversation.

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6 6. The method of Claim 1 further including:
7 answering the call in the normal manner from the perspective of the mobile
8 service provider;
9 playing said courtesy message, provided from within said mobile phone, to the
10 calling party;
11 putting the calling party on hold, performed at said mobile phone.

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13 7. The method of Claim 1 further including:
14 signaling the mobile service provider from said mobile phone that the receiving
15 party has activated courtesy mode;
16 playing said courtesy message to the calling party, performed by the mobile
17 service provider;
18 placing the calling party on hold, performed by the mobile service provider;
19 signaling the mobile service provider from said mobile phone that the receiving
20 party desires to initiate the conversation;

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22 8. The method of Claim 1 further including:
23 pre-determining said courtesy message;
24 pre-storing said courtesy message on said mobile phone.

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26 9. The method of Claim 1 further including:
27 pre-determining said courtesy message;
28 pre-storing said courtesy message at the service provider.

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30 10. The method of Claim 1 further including:
31 synthesizing said courtesy message from a pre-determined script.

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2 11. The method of Claim 1 further including:

3 synthesizing said courtesy message according to a sequence of button presses
4 made by the receiving party on said mobile phone.
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6 12. The method of Claim 11 further including:

7 including in said courtesy message an approximate waiting time the caller will
8 have to wait until the receiving party will initiate the conversation, said waiting time
9 determined by said sequence of button presses.
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11 13. A method for answering a call made to a mobile phone, comprising:

12 observing the Caller ID display, by the receiving party, to determine whether or
13 not to accept the call, and to aid in the decision of what action to take,
14 optionally manually activating, by the receiving party, a special courtesy mode
15 feature on said mobile phone, said courtesy mode displaying, to the receiving party, a
16 menu of possible actions to be taken, one of which is the primary courtesy mode where a
17 message is played to the calling party indicating in effect that the receiving party will
18 take their call shortly and/or that they should wait while the receiving party relocates in
19 order to be able to better receive their call;

20 selecting from said menu of possible actions, by the receiving party, the action to
21 be taken relative to answering and processing the call.
22

23 14. The method of Claim 13 further including, if said primary courtesy mode is
24 chosen from said menu of possible actions:

25 placing the calling party on hold;

26 having the receiving party complete their current activity and/or relocating the
27 receiving party to a location where they are better able to receive the call and have a
28 phone conversation with less disturbance to others around them;

29 activating said mobile phone, by the receiving party, to initiate the conversation.
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31 15. The method of Claim 13 further including:

1 using a single button on said mobile phone to both display said menu of possible
2 actions and select said primary courtesy mode as the default action.

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4 16. A method for answering a call made to a mobile phone, comprising:
5 observing the Caller ID display, by the receiving party, to determine whether or
6 not to accept an incoming call, and to aid in the decision of what action to take in
7 processing the call;

8 optionally pressing a sequence of numerical buttons on said mobile phone, by the
9 receiving party, the function to be initiated by said sequence of numerical button presses
10 to be interpreted according to what function key is subsequently pressed;

11 optionally pressing a function key on said mobile phone, the action initiated by
12 said function key being influenced by said previously entered sequence of numerical
13 button presses, and determining how said incoming call is to be answered and processed.

14
15 17. The method of Claim 16 where said function key initiates a special courtesy mode
16 feature on said mobile phone where a message is played to the calling party indicating in
17 effect that the calling party should wait for a period of time, and that the receiving party
18 will take their call shortly and/or will relocate to a location where they are better able to
19 receive the call, said period of time defined by said previously entered sequence of
20 numerical button presses.

21
22 18. The method of Claim 17 where, if no sequence of numerical button presses has
23 been entered prior to pressing said function key, the message played for the calling party
24 is in effect that the receiving party will take their call shortly and/or the receiving party
25 will relocate in order to be able to better receive their call, with no time period specified.

26
27 19. The method of Claim 16 where said function key initiates a voicemail greeting
28 feature on said mobile phone where a message is played to the calling party indicating in
29 effect that the receiving party will call them back after a specific period of time, followed
30 by sending them to voicemail, said period of time defined by said previously entered
31 sequence of numerical button presses.

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2 20. The method of Claim 19 where, if no sequence of numerical button presses has
3 been entered prior to pressing said function key, the calling party will be sent to
4 voicemail with a normal or special voicemail greeting that does not mention a specific
5 call-back timeframe.

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7 21. A method for answering a call made to a mobile phone, comprising:
8 observing the Caller ID display, by the receiving party, to determine whether or
9 not to accept an incoming call, and to aid in the decision of what action to take in
10 processing the call;
11 optionally pressing a sequence of numerical buttons on said mobile phone, by the
12 receiving party, the function of said sequence of numerical button presses to be
13 interpreted according to what function key is subsequently pressed;
14 optionally pressing one of two function keys on said mobile phone, the action
15 initiated by each of said function keys being influenced by said previously entered
16 sequence of numerical button presses, and where one of said function keys initiates a
17 courtesy mode function including a message played for the calling party in effect stating
18 that the receiving party will take their call shortly and/or the receiving party is relocating
19 in order to be able to better receive their call, and the other of said function keys initiates
20 a mode that includes sending the caller to voicemail.

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22 22. The method of Claim 21 where said two function keys are soft keys whose
23 functions may change from moment to moment.

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25 23. A method for providing an indication of an incoming call on a flip-type mobile
26 phone, including:

27 Upon opening the flip-type mobile phone, the call is not answered, however any
28 audible ring indication is terminated or reduced in volume.

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30 24. The method of Claim 23 where upon terminating any audible ring indication or
31 reducing its volume, a silent vibrating ring indication is initiated.

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2 25. The method of Claim 23 where upon terminating any audible ring indication,
3 including a vibrating indication that is audible, a flashing icon on the display of said
4 mobile phone continues to provide a ring indication.

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6 26. A wireless remote controller/communicator device for assisting in the answering
7 of a mobile phone, said device having bi-directional communications with said mobile
8 phone, and including:

9 a vibrating ring indication, responsive to information transmitted from said
10 mobile phone,

11 a display, capable of displaying caller ID information transmitted from said
12 mobile phone, and

13 the ability to send command information to said mobile phone to control how an
14 incoming call is processed.
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16 27. The remote controller/communicator device of Claim 26, further including
17 numerical buttons for optionally entering information for use in automatically
18 constructing a message to be sent to the caller.
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20 28. The remote controller/communicator device of Claim 26, where said command
21 information includes a command sent to said mobile phone causing a message to be sent
22 to the caller, where said message is determined by entering information using numerical
23 buttons on said remote controller/communicator device, followed by pressing a specific
24 function key on said remote controller/communicator device, said specific function key
25 determining the type of action to be taken and initiating said action.
26

27 29. The remote controller/communicator device of Claim 28, where said specific
28 function key is one of a plurality of function keys, and said action to be taken is
29 determined by said information entered using said numerical buttons followed by the
30 user's choice of which of said specific function keys is subsequently pressed, the pressing
31 of said chosen specific function key actually causing said message to be sent to the caller.

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2 30. The remote controller/communicator device of Claim 26, where said command
3 information includes at least one command that initiates a special courtesy mode, said
4 courtesy mode causing a message to be played for the caller indicating in effect that the
5 receiving party will take their call shortly and/or that they should wait while the receiving
6 party relocates in order to be able to better receive their call.

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8 31. The remote controller/communicator device of Claim 30 where said courtesy
9 mode is initiated by pressing a specific function key.

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11 32. The remote controller/communicator device of Claim 26, where said command
12 information includes at least one command that indicates to said mobile phone that the
13 caller should be sent to voicemail.

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15 33. The remote controller/communicator device of Claim 32 where said command
16 information sent to said mobile phone indicating that the caller should be sent to
17 voicemail is initiated by pressing a specific function key.

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19 34. The remote controller/communicator device of Claim 32 where said command
20 information sent to said mobile phone indicating that the caller should be sent to
21 voicemail causes a voicemail greeting to be played for the caller indicating that the
22 receiving party is aware of their call and will call back shortly.

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24 35. A wireless remote controller/communicator/headset device for assisting in the
25 answering of a mobile phone, said device containing a wireless headset voice
26 communications capability as well as command and control communications with said
27 mobile phone including:

28 a vibrating ring indication, responsive to information transmitted from said
29 mobile phone, and

30 the ability to send command information to said mobile phone indicating how a
31 particular call should be answered and processed, and

1 an integrated wireless headset function, capable of sending and receiving audio
2 information to and from said mobile phone.

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4 36. The wireless remote controller/communicator/headset device of Claim 35 where
5 said command information sent to said mobile phone includes a command causing an
6 alteration of the ring mode of said mobile phone

7
8 37. The wireless remote controller/communicator/headset device of Claim 36 where
9 said command information sent to said mobile phone includes a command causing any
10 audible ring indication to be terminated.

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12 38. The wireless remote controller/communicator/headset device of Claim 37 where
13 said audible ring indication includes a vibrating ring indication.

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15 39. The wireless remote controller/communicator/headset device of Claim 35, also
16 including a display, capable of displaying caller ID information transmitted from said
17 mobile phone.

18
19 40. The wireless remote controller/communicator/headset device of Claim 35 where
20 the command information sent to said mobile phone indicating how a particular call
21 should be answered and processed includes a command that initiates a courtesy mode
22 where a courtesy message is sent to the calling party, indicating in effect that the
23 receiving party will take their call shortly and/or that they should wait while the receiving
24 party relocates in order to be able to better receive their call.

25
26 41. The wireless remote controller/communicator/headset device of Claim 35 where
27 the command information sent to said mobile phone indicating how a particular call
28 should be answered and processed includes a command that causes the calling party to be
29 sent to voicemail.

42. The wireless remote controller/communicator/headset device of Claim 39,
including at least two specific function keys, including:
a button to answer and end a call in the conventional manner, and
a button that causes command information to be sent to said mobile phone that
causes the calling party to be sent to voicemail.

43. The wireless remote controller/communicator/headset device of Claim 42,
including at least one additional specific function key that causes command information
to be sent to said mobile phone that initiates a courtesy mode where a courtesy message is
sent to the calling party, indicating in effect that the receiving party will take their call
shortly and/or that they should wait while the receiving party relocates in order to be able
to better receive their call.

44. A wireless remote communicator device for assisting in the answering of a mobile
phone, said device capable of receiving ring indication information transmitted from said
mobile phone, and including a vibrating ring indication capability, responsive to said
information transmitted from said mobile phone.

45. A wireless remote controller/communicator device for assisting in the answering
of a mobile phone, said device having bi-directional communications with said mobile
phone, and including:

a vibrating ring indication, responsive to information transmitted from said
mobile phone, and
the ability to send command information to said mobile phone to control how an
incoming call is processed.

46. The wireless remote controller/communicator device of Claim 45, where said
command information includes a command indicating that the caller should be sent to
voicemail.

1 47. The wireless remote controller/communicator device of Claim 45, where said
2 command information includes a command indicating that any audible ring indication
3 emitted from said mobile phone should terminate.
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5 48. The wireless remote controller/communicator device of Claim 45, where said
6 command information includes a command indicating that any audible ring indication
7 emitted from said mobile phone should terminate and be replaced by a silent vibrating
8 ring indication, or a flashing icon ring indication, or both.
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10 49. A method for controlling the ring indication of a mobile phone, comprising:

11 Designating a button or set of buttons such that an incoming call is answered
12 when said button or set of buttons are pressed;

13 Causing the cessation of any current audible ring indication upon pressing any
14 buttons on said mobile phone except said designated button or set of buttons.
15

16 50. The method of Claim 49 further including:

17 Initiating or continuing a flashing icon ring indication upon said cessation of any
18 audible ring indication.